



## Inspecting Buildings after a Tornado

### General Advice



- Use great caution when entering a building damaged by high winds. Be sure that walls, ceiling and roof are in place and that the structure rests firmly on the foundation
- Look out for broken glass and downed power lines.

### Inspecting Buildings for Hidden Wind Damage

- Check the roof for:
  - Missing or damaged shingles.
  - Loose nails on metal roofing. If nails don't hold when hammered back in, use #12 or #14 metal screws to fill old nail holes.
  - Potential leaks that could indicate structural separation. This is more easily checked for on sunny days.
- Inspect the foundation to make sure that joints where the foundation and wall meet haven't separated. On stone or concrete foundations, check to see that plate bolts have not worked loose.
- Inspect the interior of buildings for structural damage.
- Using a good light, check the framing. Look for ridge separation, loose knee braces and loose rafters where the rafters join the walls.

This document is IFAS publication DH 1007.

Adapted by UF/IFAS from:  
*Extension Agent's Handbook for Emergency Preparation and Response*  
(Texas Agricultural Extension Services and the Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center)